

# Soldiers

## ARMY EARTH DAY 2006

The Army's  
Environmental  
Stewardship

Earth Day 2006 Poster  
PAGE 17





### Cover

This month marks the Army observance of Earth Day. Look for the special poster at page 17

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**T**HE U.S. Army Reserve celebrates its 98th anniversary this month. Envisioned as a force of volunteers with specialized skills, talents and abilities that would complement the warfighting skills of the Army, the Medical Reserve Corps was born on April 23, 1908. Since then, Army Reserve Soldiers have served in every conflict in which the United States has been engaged.

The Army Reserve is the Army's primary federal-reserve force, consisting of trained Soldiers and units able to perform a vast range of missions worldwide. Their primary role is to provide the specialized units, capabilities and resources needed to deploy and sustain Army forces at home and overseas. The Army Reserve force is also the Army's major source of trained individual Soldiers for augmenting headquarters staffs and filling vacancies in Regular Army units.

Many of the current Army's critical support capabilities are exclusively or primarily in the Army Reserve. It has all the Army's training divisions, railway units, enemy-prisoner-of-war brigades and chemical brigades — and most of the civil affairs, psychological operations, and medical and transportation units. It has come a long way from its original strength of 160 volunteers, but that volunteer spirit and the Reserves' special contribution of civilian- and military-acquired skills is more valued than ever.

*Gil High*  
Gil High  
Editor in Chief



Our Warrior Ethos poster series continues with the second poster appearing on our inside back cover. The posters were created by students of the 25Z Advanced NCO Course, Class 002-05, of the Fort Meade Signal Corps Regimental NCO Academy. As we publish each poster in the series, we will also make them available for download at [www4.army.mil/soldiers/archives/pdfs](http://www4.army.mil/soldiers/archives/pdfs).



## Soldiers

### The Official U.S. Army Magazine

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## Soldiers

Recipient of Awards of Magazine Excellence



Thomas Jefferson Awards  
Outstanding Flagship Publication  
2004



Silver and Bronze  
Anvil Awards  
2002 and 2003



2003



NAGC Blue Pencil  
Competition  
2004





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### 2006 Earth Day Message

We remain a Nation at war, yet we must prepare for future challenges in an era of uncertainty and unpredictability. To meet these challenges, we are transforming how we fight, how we train, and how we do business. Fundamental to our success in transforming the Army is the concept of sustainability which provides a systems approach to improve both effectiveness and efficiency over the long-term.

*The Army Strategy for the Environment* provides the vision to guide the Army toward increased sustainability -- focusing on our mission, the environment, and our community.

To achieve mission success, Soldiers today and for generations to come need the right resources. Paramount among them is the availability and quality of natural assets that provide effective training areas and support healthy communities in which to live and work. Every day our Soldiers use these assets to remain ready to defend the Nation and it is our responsibility to protect our environment. Therefore, it is vital that we continue to implement innovative policies and practices that will protect and preserve our natural resources for future generations.

The Army is proud to join with the Nation in celebrating the 36th anniversary of Earth Day on 22 April. Our Earth Day theme, "Sustaining the Environment for a Secure Future," reflects our view that this is a critical responsibility we all share. Every day ask yourself how you can improve operations while meeting today's needs and anticipating tomorrow's challenges.

Together, we will Sustain the Mission and Secure the Future!

Peter J. Schoomaker  
General, United States Army  
Chief of Staff

Francis J. Harvey  
Secretary of the Army







## Iraq

Soldiers from Company C, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, provide ground security after landing in a village near Baghdad.

— Photo by SSG Kevin L. Moses Sr.





## ▲ Africa

Local townspeople and members of the 96th Civil Affairs Bn. move a large water pump to a spot near the river for locals to utilize in the village of Dinigo, Gode Zone, Ethiopia.

— Photo by SSgt Ricky A. Bloom, USAF



## ▲ Kuwait

Bradley fighting vehicles of the 1st Bn., 4th Inf., line up at the Udairi Desert Range before their crews conduct a gunnery zero range before moving forward into Iraq.

— Photo by PFC Jason W. Dangel





## ▲ Iraq

Aided by interpreters, Soldiers from 1st Bn., 17th Inf., question a grave digger in Mosul.

— Photo by CPT Thomas Kurtz



## ▲ Iraq

Engineer Soldiers from the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, search for possible improvised explosive devices alongside a main road in East Baghdad.

— Photo by SPC Teddy Wade

Soldiers • April 2006

# Sustaining the Future

Interview by Beth Reece

Beth Reece



As a young Eagle Scout, Addison D. Davis IV learned to always leave campsites better than he found them. His appreciation for the great outdoors and respect for our natural resources grew into adulthood.

As an Army officer in the late 1980s, Davis helped assess the environmental impacts of destroying nuclear and conventional ground-launched ballistic and cruise missiles under the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty with the Soviet Union. And as garrison commander for Fort Bragg, N.C., from 2000 to 2003, Davis led the Army's first efforts to establish a framework for an installation sustainability program.

Last year, President George W. Bush appointed Davis to be the deputy assistant secretary of the Army for environment, safety and occupational health.

◀ A former Army officer, Addison D. Davis IV was appointed by President George W. Bush last year to be deputy assistant secretary of the Army for environment, safety and occupational health.

*Focus on the Environment*





▲ By carefully “deconstructing” old structures, the Army can recycle their components, rather than dumping them in landfills.

## Q How do the Army’s mission and training affect the environment?

They’re tied directly to one another, because the environment has to be sustained in a way that allows it to support training and mission accomplishment. The most important aspect of sustainability is preserving our current capabilities, while at the same time laying the foundation for Soldiers to accomplish their missions 25 years from now.

Sustainability is all about successfully meeting the mission, protecting the environment and taking care of communities. It applies to clean air, clean water and proper disposal of hazardous waste. It’s about taking care of our ranges and training areas and preserving threatened and endangered species.

## Q What are we doing to take care of the environment and preserve our natural resources?

We’re looking at ways to reduce energy requirements, both on the battlefield and on our installations. We’re looking at everything from hybrid electric engines in our weapon sys-

tems for stealthy operations to using energy-savings performance contracts to more efficient light fixtures and motion detectors that automatically turn lights on and off in limited-use areas.

In many cases we are using recyclable materials, which don’t cause us to cut down forests full of trees or dig mines to come up with the ore necessary for structural frames. When you look at the total lifecycle of a building — from planning, design, construction and at some point renovation or deconstruction, and the cost savings that go along with that — it goes without saying that the heating, ventilation and cooling systems we now have are much more energy efficient. Our ability to insulate buildings is much more energy efficient.

With just one modern toilet installed in family housing or single-Soldier barracks, we can potentially save 2,000 gallons of water in one month. These are small enhancements that are being incorporated into the design and construction of military facilities and family housing.

Even the way we are starting to landscape is saving resources. Why not put in native plants and grasses in an attractive manner and save Soldiers

from having to cut the grass once a week and water? These are little things that can save us tremendously over the long run.

We’re also looking to make a difference now in the short term with our nontactical vehicle fleet. Many installations are considering converting some of their government civilian vehicles to hybrid propulsion. It’s a dual benefit. We’re reducing the emissions into the atmosphere, while at the same time using more fuel-efficient ways to support the installation team.

## Q What have been our biggest success stories?

We’ve seen a lot of success in the past couple of years in acquisition. We are integrating environmental considerations into our procurement decisions; even our new Stryker vehicle is being designed to “engineer out” potential environmental concerns. Also, when we buy buildings we’re seeing success in design and construction, in terms of significant reductions in energy costs. We’ve also had installations reduce their yearly water consumption by about 30 percent, which is pretty tremendous.

Our installations are also undertaking a great deal of construction, and we've made great strides with that in the last 20 to 25 years by using sustainable materials that stand the test of time. Importantly, we are changing the way we construct buildings by using nationally recognized standards for "green" buildings. I think we'll continue to see benefits over time from that construction.

Deconstruction has also become a great success. We're not just bringing in a wrecking ball and demolishing structures, then hauling them off to a landfill. We're systematically removing precious metals and other useful components to recycle into other buildings that have such existing systems as heating, cooling and ventilation systems, window fixtures and doors. We're taking concrete from the bases and sidewalks of these structures to a central location and crushing it into small rocks for use in such other projects as erosion control and home-improvement. What we're seeing is a tremendous avoidance of waste.

We've spent a lot of time and effort in the last 10 or 12 years enhancing our ranges and training areas. In some cases we just didn't do a good job taking care of them, or we didn't think through the construction process for the best way to build a range so that it could be maintained at a low cost over time.

In the past we didn't think about building ranges with wide-open spaces to support large-caliber weapon systems. We didn't think about planting low-level vegetation to keep the soil in place. And so we had vast erosion at ranges across the country. There's a cost associated with going back and repairing roads for tank ranges, for fixing erosion-control problems on small-arms ranges and maneuver ranges for

infantry and engineers, for instance.

But now we've got a better plan in place for how to construct ranges, and equally important is that the ranges will sustain themselves over the long haul. So we won't have to keep going back every year and putting more money into these ranges and training areas. It goes back to making an investment now that will sow the seeds of success much farther down the road.

So when you look across the spectrum, we are becoming more efficient and using our resources more effectively to accomplish the mission while also preserving the environment.

### **Q Do you think the Army is any farther ahead than civilian communities on these issues?**

I would say yes. At some locations around the country, the Army is leading efforts to partner with local communities. In fact, there are about 10 installations that have well-developed sustainability programs in place and underway. Fort Bragg, N.C., for example, was the inaugural installation that stepped out and took the lead for the entire Army on establishing a sustainability program.

In many respects these installations are spawning additional sustainability efforts in local communities. The Sustainable Sandhills, for instance, involves not only Fort Bragg, but six surrounding counties that are partnering to develop and implement a series of goals, looking at such issues as compatible land-use around Fort Bragg, and water quality and quantity issues. And within the last several months, such major corporations as Ford Motor Company have come to the Army to learn from our ideas and programs.

### **Q Why should Soldiers care about the environment?**

Soldiers care because it's engrained in our Army values. When you look at the esteem in which Soldiers are held, folks expect a lot of them and the Department of Army civilians who are part of our team. We're expected to be good stewards of the resources that are provided to us by the taxpayers, and I can think of no better way to do that than through ensuring sustainability and maximizing our efficiencies. It's one thing for us to talk about sustainability here in the Pentagon, but it's what happens in the field with the real Army that matters — and it's also where big improvements can be seen.

What we are seeing today is a much more environmentally aware group of Soldiers. Young people coming into the Army today have grown up in communities where there's a tremendous amount of concern for the environment. They were involved in such things as Earth Day and recycling through Scouting programs and school. They're aware of how fragile the planet really is. They're much more conscious of how their actions affect the environment, and of the need to take steps to preserve what they have, not only now, but for future generations.

### **Q What can Soldiers do as individuals?**

Number one, they can be aware of their surroundings. I think back to a quote from Theodore Roosevelt, one of the true founders of the conservation movement in this country. He said something like, "Do as much as you can with what you have, where you are." I can think of nothing that focuses better on what we want Soldiers to do, wherever they are.

*Focus on the Environment*




We are also trying to look at ways to reach out to other nations and work with both their armed forces and their communities. Most environmental issues are of common concern to everyone. Who out there doesn't want clean water? Who doesn't want clean air? Who doesn't want to have a nice place to live that's free of potential contaminants? These are shared values and needs of people all around the world.

## Q Is there anything you'd like to add?

Sustainability is not just a leader responsibility. It's the responsibility of everyone — Soldier, civilian, contractor or volunteer. We must look into the future to preserve the things we'll need to accomplish the future mission.

There are some myths that need to be dispelled. The first is that anything environmentally friendly costs a lot of money. That's not necessarily the case. If you build structures and training ranges in a sustainable fashion, then you may have a slightly higher cost of construction, but maintenance costs over 10 or 20 years will be significantly lower. And by the way, that range has probably stayed operational because it hasn't had to be shut down for maintenance. I don't see how we can afford not to do these things.

Another myth is that we can't preserve the environment and still have tough, realistic training. The U.S. armed forces are the greatest in the world. They've performed magnificently, and the reason they've done so is the training they do both here in the United States and overseas. Not only do we have a world-class training doctrine, we've also got world-class facilities for our service members to train in. 

## Honoring Environmental Stewardship

Story by Neal Snyder

**T**HE Army's ongoing environmental stewardship efforts were recognized in December when Secretary of the Army Francis J. Harvey announced the service's 2005 environmental excellence award winners.

Five installations and four teams received the Secretary of the Army' Environmental Award for their dedication to environmental stewardship while sustaining the Army's mission.

Some of the noteworthy accomplishments credited to the 2005 winners included programs that enhanced wildlife habitats at the same time they provided ideal training conditions; safely and successfully cleaned up contamination; preserved invaluable state cultural history; created innovative pollution-prevention approaches; and fielded weapon systems built with both the Soldier and environmental safety in mind.




▲ Corn grows on some of the 5,700 acres of farmland at Fort Campbell, Ky., one of the fiscal year 2005 award winners.

### The winners of the fiscal year 2005 awards were:

- **Fort Campbell, Ky.** — Environmental Quality, Non-industrial Installation
- **Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield Sustainability and Management Team, Ga.** — Environmental Quality, Team
- **Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.** — Cultural Resources Management, Installation
- **Fort Lewis, Wash.** — Environmental Restoration, Installation
- **Sacramento District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Pyramid Lake Torpedo and Bombing Range Site Restoration Project, Nev.** — Environmental Restoration, Team
- **Fort Custer Training Center, Michigan Army National Guard.** — Natural Resources Conservation, Small Installation
- **Minnesota Army National Guard Natural Resources Conservation Team.** — Natural Resources Conservation, Team
- **Tobyhanna Army Depot, Pa.** — Pollution Prevention, Industrial Installation
- **CO2 Cooling Development Team, Communications-Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center, Fort Belvoir, Va.** — Environmental Excellence in Weapon Systems Acquisition, Team

"The Army is committed to good environmental stewardship and the long-term sustainability of its installations," said Addison D. Davis IV, deputy assistant secretary of the Army for the environment, safety and occupational health. "We can't send our Soldiers out to engage opponents in the war on terror without training them as they need to fight, but we don't have to sacrifice the environment to provide that training. As these awardees so ably show, we use innovation, dedication, and hard work to balance readiness with environmental sustainability."

Representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; the U.S. Bureau of Land Management; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation; the National Conference of State Legislatures; environmental management office representatives from five states; and the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive served as judges on the award panels.

The Secretary of the Army Environmental Awards represent the highest honor in the field of environmental science conferred by the Army. 

**I**N this issue of Soldiers we're focusing on one of the Army's lesser-known missions: that of environmental stewardship.

As the manager and user of vast tracks of land, the Army is naturally committed to the long-term sustainability of its installations. Why? Because if the land isn't useable, Soldiers can't train in the ways they need to. And the best way to ensure the land's continued availability is to manage it responsibly.

In the following stories, Neal Snyder of the U.S. Army Environmental Center explores various aspects of the Army's ongoing environmental stewardship efforts.

# Building an Iraqi Village

Story and Photos by Neal Snyder



**W**ave after wave of Soldiers faced the same scenario — enter a village with a tiny team, make contact with the leader, determine what help the people needed, leave at the first sign of hostility. The attack came, every time.

In a little tin village under the pines of Fort Bragg, N.C., they prepared for deployment to Iraq.

“Freedom City” is a busy place. Airborne and infantry, military police and logistics units all pass through on their way to the Middle East. For such a valuable piece of real estate, the village cost the Army only \$4,500.

▶ At Freedom City, a mock Iraqi village constructed at Fort Bragg, N.C., Soldiers interact with role-players portraying villagers.

*Focus on the Environment*



Built entirely from materials either recycled or diverted from the Fort Bragg landfill, Freedom City cost the Army only \$4,500.



The key was building the entire place out of materials either recycled or diverted from the Fort Bragg landfill.

The idea for Freedom City struck Range Officer Bill Edwards in March 2004. At the time, the crowded schedule at the installation's two other villages threatened to hold back the deployment of units, Edwards said. Those villages were built to allow the use of live ammunition.

But a unit practicing a convoy scenario for a week used live ammunition only for two or three days. The rest of the training, Edwards reasoned, could take place in another location, freeing the live-fire village for other units.

Director of Plans, Training and Mobilization Mike Lynch gave the new village his approval, but also gave Edwards only 90 days to build it.

The schedule and budget essentially prevented using outside contractors or new materials, Edwards said.

"This didn't start out as a sustain-

ability project, but when we looked at the best place to get products fast, we had to look at the landfill," he said. "It was primarily an economic decision."

It was also a natural choice in a division with a culture of encouraging sustainability, for which Edwards credits Lynch.

"As a division we train about 150,000 Soldiers per year," Lynch said. "If we want to be here for another hundred years, we need to do what we need to do for sustainability now."

"We probably saved \$250,000 on the project by using recycled and diverted materials," Edwards said.

Fort Bragg's range-control staff built the entire village. They worked from photographs of buildings in Iraq but had no blueprints, said Greg McLean, range-maintenance chief. Fifty steel transport containers became the buildings. One hundred gallons of paint came from the recycling center.


The roads, like most dirt tracks

on Fort Bragg, are surfaced with tons of ground concrete from the foundations of demolished buildings. Painted plywood rounded the corners of arches and domes.

"When we were hauling it out there it looked like a trash dump, but when we were done it looked like an Iraqi village," Edwards said.

Freedom City features a narrow bridge where Soldiers can react to an ambush and a four-lane dirt highway built to resemble the kind of place where they might encounter an improvised explosive device.

SFC David Pittari, a civil-affairs Soldier and instructor with the Army Reserve's 98th Division, said the village resembles what he saw in Iraq, but the point is to put Soldiers under the kinds of stress they will face.

"You need to help get them over that initial shock," Pittari said. "Filled with shouting villagers, smoke and at least one accused insurgent, Freedom City grows in realism. And all the tin and plywood? It's just a backdrop, really." 



A man with a beard and a baseball cap is standing in a forest. He is wearing a grey long-sleeved shirt, blue jeans, and a bright orange safety vest. He is holding a blue laser line tool, which is projecting a bright blue line of light across the forest floor. The forest floor is covered in brown leaves and fallen branches. The background is filled with trees and foliage.

# Growing FORESTS

Story and Photos by Neal Snyder

*Focus on the Environment*



“The primary mission of Fort Drum’s forestry program is to provide a forested environment that meets the requirements of the current mission-training scenario.”

In the moments before the storm struck, Jason Wagner’s paint gun spat a blue round at a tree about 12 feet away. The damp smack, audible over a background of rustling branches, signaled doom for its target.

Wagner moved on, marking trees for thinning as part of the ongoing effort to shape the forests of Fort Drum, N.Y.

Marking trees with paint spots puts the finishing touches on what Wagner, the post’s chief forester, calls the art and science of silviculture.

“Silviculture is managing a forest so the customer gets what he wants out of the land,” he said. In this case, the landowner happens to be the Army.

“The primary mission of Fort Drum’s forestry program is to provide a forested environment that meets the requirements of the current mission-training scenario,” Wagner said.

At the same time, Fort Drum wants to make certain it has “forest after forest, forever,” said Wagner, using a phrase repeated by Richard LeClerc, chief of the installation’s Natural Resources Branch.

“We’re going to ensure that the trainer gets the job done,” LeClerc said. “But we’re also going to ensure that that land, those resources, are available for the next trainer behind him, and the next trainer behind him.”

The science behind the art of

silviculture on the installation rests in a computerized database housed on the first floor of the World War II barracks housing the Natural Resources Branch. That database powers the Natural Resources Management Unit (NRMU) framework.

Rooted in a forestry-classification system, the NRMU concept relates installation natural resources to locations, not programs. With more than 15,000 units, Fort Drum’s NRMU map resembles a jigsaw puzzle.

For each piece, the NRMU database serves up information from the installation’s fish and wildlife, wetlands, forestry and National Environmental Policy Act programs.

“Each of these units acts as a placeholder for any data we collect on that specific location,” LeClerc said.

Each unit represents a different type of land cover. A flyover in 2000 gave LeClerc and his staff the view used to draw the NRMU map. A satellite-guided visit to each NRMU gave them the hard truth: About 60 percent of their early assumptions were not accurate. Walking the NRMUs helped the installation correct those assumptions.

Of Fort Drum’s 107,000 acres, forest covers more than 70,000, with some 60,000 acres manageable, Wagner said.

“The importance of the NRMU is that it allows us to manage our large land base on a landscape level,” said forester Rod Voss, a research associate with the Colorado State University Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands.

▶ Fort Drum forester Jason Wagner marks a tree for cutting. Careful forest management ensures the post meets its training requirements.

▶ Members of the Fort Drum natural resources branch update forestry information using handheld computers.





▲ Healthy forests ensure that Soldiers have the proper terrain in which to train throughout the year.

Using handheld computers, natural resources staff members update the NRMU database whenever they go into the field.

The NRMU database also automates the process of filing the National Environmental Policy Act documents required every time a unit goes into the field for training.

“We can now do in 15 to 30 minutes a job that used to take a week to 14 days,” said SSG James Smotherman, terrain noncommissioned officer for the 2nd Battalion, 15th Field Artillery Regiment.

When trainers like Smotherman submit their plans, they update the information for the NRMUs they plan to use. The natural resources staff tracks the requests to project how to manage the land.

In addition, if they know what kind of training the Soldiers are looking for, the staffers can use NRMU information to recommend areas already prepared for that kind of training.

The NRMU framework lets the

environmental staff know which units, which animal species and what kind of trees are on practically every square meter of Fort Drum.

This helps with long-term planning. “Regardless of changes of commander, mission or weapon systems, we’re thinking about what kind of landscape will fill the training need,” LeClerc said.

The natural resources team is talking with the Integrated Training Area Management (ITAM) staff about using

Rooted in a forestry-classification system, the NRMU concept relates installation natural resources to locations, not programs.

NRMUs for their own planning.

It’s a natural fit, Wagner said. “I cut down the trees, ITAM comes in and gives a beautiful finished product for the Soldier to train in,” he said.

The 10th Mountain Division — among the most frequently deployed units in the Army — uses the versatility of Fort Drum to practice operations and training exercises throughout the year.

“I like the woods here at Fort Drum; a lot of the area is open in the wood line,” said SGT William Scott of Company A, 1st Bn., 31st Infantry Regt.

Due east and in the direct path of Lake Ontario’s snowy effect on the weather, Fort Drum provides harsh training for Soldiers, but grows hardwood like a peach grows fuzz. In the South, installations struggle with their pine forests, Wagner said. But here, “Put sunlight on the forest floor and you’ll get trees,” he said. “We can’t keep up with the growth rate — we’re losing some range space.”

*Focus on the Environment*



► Fort Drum's Jason Wagner and Colorado State University research associate Rod Voss map the location of the post's various tree species.

Practically no chip of wood cleared from Fort Drum goes unused. The best hardwood — including cherry, maple and birch — goes to local sawmills. Lesser trees go to paper mills or to fuel a nearby energy plant. Firewood harvesters can buy \$10 permits to thin plots too small for the timber industry. And there's plenty left as windfall to fertilize another generation of forests.

That kind of detail makes Army forestry a self-sustaining program. Some profits remain on Fort Drum to pay the salaries of Wagner, Voss and other full- and part-time foresters. The rest goes into an Armywide forestry fund.

Foresters trim out certain areas and market the resulting timber based on the type of training to be conducted, when the area is needed and the quality of the trees.

"When the trainers tell me what they want to do, I tell them how much time we'll need to remove the trees," Wagner said. "As long as they get me involved early, I can do whatever they need me to do and collect for the Army the value of the harvested timber."


If a trainer requires trees to be a certain distance apart so Soldiers can practice driving on rough terrain, then the foresters have the trees harvested accordingly. If a unit needs a high canopy for overhead cover, then the forestry program can accommodate that as well.

"We want to provide adequate training grounds for the troops, but we also want to make sure we provide for sustainability into the future," Voss said. "We want to make sure where we now have forests, we'll always have forests." 📌





# The Woodpecker

A close-up photograph of a juvenile red-cockaded woodpecker perched on a tree trunk. The bird has a black cap, a white throat, and a black and white checkered pattern on its back and wings. It is holding a small insect in its beak. The tree trunk is covered in rough, peeling bark.

▲ A juvenile red-cockaded woodpecker finds a meal on a tree at Fort Gordon, Ga. The woodpecker is one of 177 threatened or endangered species found on Army property.

*Focus on the Environment*



# r's Tale

Story by Neal Snyder

“... the Army is obligated to protect and promote recovery of the threatened and endangered species on its lands.”

**T**HE red-cockaded woodpecker weighs about as much as a golf ball or two rounds of M-16 ammunition. If you held it in your hand, it wouldn't reach from the tips of your fingers to your watchband.

But, because it's a federally listed endangered species, the bird — which is black and white except for red slashes near the back of the male's neck — carries a lot of weight in the Army.

“As a federal agency, the Army is obligated to protect and promote recovery of the threatened and endangered species on its lands,” said Rosemary Queen, chief of the Natural Resources Branch at the U.S. Army Environmental Center at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

The woodpecker is one of more than 177 threatened or endangered species found on Army property. Other species range from the Lane Mountain milkvetch, a small flower

found on Fort Irwin, Calif., to the bald eagle, found on 44 Army installations across the country.

Protecting these plants and animals is a case of promoting conservation, which supports military sustainability, Queen said. “As we learn more about these species and help them recover, we reduce training restrictions on our installations.”

The red-cockaded woodpecker, for instance, lives in the Sandhills, a narrow strip of piney woods stretching from southeastern North Carolina across South Carolina and into Georgia — the heart of Army training country in the South. Because they all encompass relatively untouched forests in their impact areas and training ranges, Fort Bragg, N.C., Fort Jackson, S.C., and Forts Gordon, Stewart and Benning, Ga., all have woodpecker-conservation programs.

## Woodpecker Success

The hard work toward the recovery of the red-cockaded woodpecker's population on and around Fort Bragg reached a milestone in November, when wildlife biologists confirmed more than 350 potential breeding groups.



▲ Three red-cockaded woodpecker hatchlings, two of which are shown here, were found at Fort Gordon in 2000 after adult birds were moved to the post to help re-establish the population.

This is one small but significant step toward the removal of the woodpecker from the endangered-species list, Queen said.

“This initiative allows us to continue mission training while protecting the ecosystem of the Sandhills,” said Tad Davis, deputy assistant secretary of the Army for environment, safety and occupational health.

In the 1990s, in compliance with the Endangered Species Act, the installation imposed training and construction restrictions to protect the endangered woodpecker and its long-leaf pine-forest habitat. The conservation efforts of the Fort Bragg natural resource staff brought the number of breeding groups on the installation from 238 in 1992 to 347 today. An estimated 21 more groups live on conservation land around the installation, bringing the total to 368 potential breeding groups.

Ten designated “primary core populations” — including Fort Bragg's — must reach 350 or more breeding groups before the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will even consider the woodpecker population to be “recovered.”

Once the species is “delisted,” actions must be taken to prevent the woodpecker from becoming endangered again, USFWS officials said.

Neal Snyder works in the U.S. Army Environmental Center Public Affairs Office at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. Cassandra Tomarchio, a consultant with Booz-Allen Hamilton supporting the U.S. Army Environmental Center Public Affairs Office, contributed to this article.



Amy Young

“It’s not only a victory for the environment, it’s a victory for the Army, because we have witnessed the results of our hard work.”

A high number of potential breeding groups is important to a species’ ability to withstand threats that can result from inbreeding or from such natural disasters as hurricanes or tornadoes, Queen said.

### An Important Partnership

The Army, which is continuing to work toward the red-cockaded woodpecker’s recovery on Fort Bragg and throughout the South, was able to announce the woodpecker-population achievement five years ahead of schedule because of the commitment

of a group called the North Carolina Sandhills Conservation Partnership, Davis said.

The partnership conserves, protects and enhances the unique ecosystems of the Sandhills, and was created primarily to help the woodpecker recover and thereby allow environmental officials to reduce training restrictions on the Army.

“This recovery validates the success of ongoing efforts to preserve natural resources and the meaningful benefits of working together with community partners,” he said.

▲ A young male red-cockaded woodpecker awaits release after being banded at Fort Bragg, N.C. Banding helps experts keep track of the bird’s movements and identity.

The partnership includes Fort Bragg, The Nature Conservancy, the USFWS, the Sandhills Area Land Trust, the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, the North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation, the Sandhills Ecological Institute and the U.S. Army Environmental Center.

“It’s not only a victory for the environment, it’s a victory for the Army, because we have witnessed the results of our hard work,” Davis said. “This is a major accomplishment for the nation, too. We have preserved an important element of our natural heritage in this little bird and its extraordinary habitat.” 📌

*Focus on the Environment*



# Preserving Sterlingville

Story and Photos by Neal Snyder

**N**O mystery surrounds the disappearance of Sterlingville, N.Y. Its reappearance, however, is a real story.

With the outbreak of World War II, the Army needed training land quickly. Officials looked to the sparsely populated “North Country” of New York, especially the region around a small cavalry installation called Pine Camp.

Local ironworks’ hunger for fuel had turned the native forest into a

➤ *(Right)* Fort Drum archaeologist Laurie Rush points to the foundation of an original Sterlingville structure. *(Below)* Sterlingville as it looked before it and several other villages were annexed to Pine Camp.



Historic photo courtesy Fort Drum PAO







- ▲ Staff members from Fort Drum's Integrated Training Area Management program cover the site of an historic building with a protective cloth.
- ▲ While Soldiers may train in certain historic areas on Fort Drum, they are not permitted to dig in or otherwise disturb the soil.

prairie in the previous century, and subsistence farming kept the land open thereafter.

This left a perfect landscape in which to train armored cavalry units, and in 1941 the Army annexed 75,000 acres of it to Pine Camp. The move enveloped Sterlingville and four nearby villages, and the Army ultimately relocated 525 families from the area.

Within a year, three divisions of Soldiers were training at Pine Camp. Among the trainees were then-CPT Creighton Abrams, after whom today's

M1 tank is named, and Bill Mauldin, originator of the Willie and Joe cartoons.

Pine Camp became Camp Drum in 1951 and Fort Drum in 1974. The 10th Mountain Division arrived in 1985. Forests returned, and the foundations of Sterlingville filled with trees.

Then, in 1995, Sterlingville, site of a 19th-century iron furnace, entered the National Register of Historic Places. Interest among some of the former children of Sterlingville led Fort Drum archaeologist Laurie Rush to organize a bus tour of the 660-acre site.

Tour members spent the afternoon reminiscing, Rush said. But a question came up that disturbed her: "If you took away Sterlingville for training, why aren't you using it for training?"

Like many sites on the National Register, Sterlingville lay untouched.

## Focus on the Environment



Pine Camp became Camp Drum in 1951 and Fort Drum in 1971. The 10th Mountain Division arrived in 1985.

► Soldiers from Company A, 1st Battalion, 13th Infantry Regiment, train in the woods around Sterlingville.

Soldiers had never used the town proper, and by 1995 the fragile foundations held historic significance. Outside archaeologists couldn't get to the site through active training areas and the Army didn't have the funds to do a proper investigation. Meanwhile, the weather and returning forests were busy erasing the town's remains.


The tour member's question haunted Rush until she met with Ian Warden, land rehabilitation and maintenance coordinator for the Integrated Training Area Management program. Together, they decided on a course to preserve Sterlingville for future archaeologists while opening it up

for 21st-century Soldier training. The project began in summer 2004.

As Rush locates each foundation, Warden's crew spreads protective layers of cloth, sand and gravel. Sandbags encase protruding walls. As a result, units can use Sterlingville for any training not requiring digging or explosives, Rush said. The town could stand in for any historic site in Iraq, she said, training Soldiers to operate in archaeologically sensitive places.

Possibly, said SGT William G. Scott, a squad leader for Company A, 1st Battalion, 31st Infantry. But he also sees perfect defensive firing points in the sandbagged foundations.

"We can set up a road overwatch just like we do in Iraq," he said.

As a Soldier training area, Sterlingville is on the map again. 

▼ Soldiers training in Sterlingville use a sandbag-reinforced cistern as an improvised fighting position.





# America's Engine





# ers in the Pacific

Story and Photos by Heike Hasenauer

SINCE the beginning of the 20th century the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Honolulu District, headquartered at Fort Shafter, Hawaii, has made "phenomenal" contributions to the United States and its military forces, said LTC David E. Anderson, Honolulu District commander.

The district celebrated 100 years of service to Hawaii, the Pacific region and the nation in April 2005.

◀ A bunker atop the dormant volcano Diamond Head, which overlooks world-famous Waikiki Beach on Oahu, is one of a number of similar fortifications built by the Corps of Engineers following the Pearl Harbor attack.



## Projects Pacific Wide

“We’ve helped so many people in so many ways. One of the best is our support of the people of Hawaii and other areas in the Pacific during natural disasters,” Anderson said.

“During response and recovery efforts, we do infrastructure-reconstruction, road work, whatever it takes to get things back up and running. Right now, Honolulu District personnel are even deployed to support recovery efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in the Mississippi Valley region.”

The biggest mission of the district is military construction.

As part of the Army Transformation process in Hawaii, the district successfully completed one of the most extensive and detailed environmental impact statements ever done for the Army.

The district did the EIS to support the transformation of the 25th Infantry Division’s 2nd Brigade into a Stryker Brigade Combat Team.

In addition, Corps engineers studied the environmental impacts of positioning a Stryker brigade in Alaska.

On Oahu, the district is also focused on the 10-year, \$865-million Whole Barracks Renewal Program to improve the quality of single-soldier housing.

A big future challenge will be to implement the Army’s vision of military construction transformation.

“We’re doing a lot of good for our Soldiers and their families. Executing projects to improve their quality of life is very gratifying,” Anderson said.

Other military-funded work includes environmental missions, such as the clean up of formerly used defense sites, including a massive project at Waikoloa on the island of Hawaii; and real-estate work for the armed forces, such as administering leases for 34 recruiting stations in the Pacific.

➤ Modern and comfortable homes for families at Fort Shafter, on Oahu, were completed several years ago under the Army’s new-housing initiative.

The Honolulu District is responsible for an area that spans 12 million square miles, from Hawaii to the east coast of Africa.

The Honolulu District is responsible for an area that spans 12 million square miles, from Hawaii to the east coast of Africa.

Seventy to 80 percent of the district’s mission is military construction for the Army and Air Force. Ten to 20 percent of the district workload involves civil-works projects, including harbors, shore protection, flood control and projects funded by other civilian agencies.

These non-military services of the







▲ Soon after the Corps of Engineers became a permanent entity in the Hawaiian Islands, its workers began dredging and improving harbors, erecting lighthouses and other aids to navigation, and building coastal artillery emplacements and other fortifications.



▲ The neighborhoods built by the Corps of Engineers for Army families in Hawaii feature state-of-the-art homes, parks, exercise areas and all the other features found in civilian communities.





▲ Under the Whole Barracks Renewal Project, Soldiers of the Hawaii-based 25th Infantry Division were among the first in the Army to receive new, ultra-modern facilities.

Corps include work for agencies such as the U.S. Department of the Interior and the U.S. State Department; various nations and state, county, and territorial agencies of the Pacific; regulatory work, to enforce laws ensuring that prospective builders secure required permits; and emergency-management services, in response to natural disasters and wars.

### Palau Compact Road

One of the Honolulu District's largest projects is a 53-mile, two-lane road-construction project on the Pacific island of Palau, where 80 percent of the population lives in the southern part of Babeldaob Island, the largest of Palau's more than 300 islands.

The remainder of the island is largely uninhabited because there's no infrastructure, making it impossible for many Palauan families to live on their families' land, and forcing them



▲ Located on the grounds of historic Fort DeRussy on Waikiki, the Armed Forces Recreation Center's Hale Koa Hotel — completed by the Honolulu District in 1975 and recently enlarged — occupies one of the choicest pieces of real estate in all Oahu.



to rent quarters in the capital city of Koror to get to and from work each day.

The road is being cut through triple-canopy jungle — a tough test of even the most modern equipment — and, when completed, will allow islanders to access areas they've never before explored, Anderson said.

Before construction of the road, the islanders had no means of exploring their main island, mainly because Palau's jungles were so dense and they weren't equipped to clear land and build their own roads. Complicating matters further is the 200 inches of rain that falls on Palau annually.

"The road is badly needed and will change the economic future of Palau," said Alex Morrison, the Honolulu District's resident engineer and administrative contracting officer for the Palau road project. He has been on the island since the project began in 1999 and will be there until the project is completed.

When the road's finished, Palau's people will be able to expand north.

"They've already built a new capitol building that looks much like the U.S. capitol," Anderson said.

"Right now you can drive through the jungle and see nothing else. Suddenly, you round a bend, and there it is, this big domed building."

"This district's civil-works program is small, compared to some mainland engineer districts" Anderson said, "but what we do for Pacific island communities, including those in American Samoa, Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, is extremely important. It includes improving ports and harbors, safeguarding the communities from storm and flood damage, and protecting shorelines from the destructive power of the sea."

"In American Samoa many people get on boats to go to work, school and church," he added. "Without decent harbors, they couldn't do that."

## Pacific Ocean Division

The Pacific Ocean Division, headquartered at Fort Shafter, is one of nine Corps of Engineer divisions



▲ Flood-control projects like this one, in which an earthen dam was built to hold back rising water, protect local Oahu neighborhoods that once flooded in the rainy season.

located around the world, which manage and assist a total of 45 districts dispersed throughout those divisions.

POD itself consists of four districts: Honolulu, Japan, Alaska and the Far East (Korea).

"Altogether, the Corps has about 37,000 employees and all but about 600 of them are civilians. They operate in more than 90 countries," said COL John W. Peabody, the division engineer and commanding officer. Of the roughly 1,750 people in the division, about 30 are Soldiers.

"Our civilians, like our Soldiers, go everywhere and do everything," Peabody said.

"Many of our civilians and Soldiers have volunteered to deploy in support of the global war on terror-

ism, and we currently have civilians and Soldiers deployed worldwide, but most notably to Iraq, Afghanistan and Indonesia," Peabody said.

Yet Corps employees can and do stay in one location for a very long time. For example, Frank Dayton mans a one-person USACE office on Guam. He's been there for some 30 years, handling Corps business in the Marianas Islands and American Samoa.

"We've helped the people of Hawaii and elsewhere in the Pacific following natural disasters. The Pacific Ocean Division often teams with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide water, ice, power, debris clean-up and other essential engineer services," Peabody said.



The Pacific Ocean Division dispatched engineers to South Asia following the tsunami that killed more than 300,000 people. The engineers helped local officials determine how to rebuild.

“The nations we are involved in encompass the U.S. Pacific Command’s area of responsibility, especially Japan and Korea, but others that may surprise you — such as Thailand, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, the Philippines and Mongolia,” Peabody said. “As engineering leaders in responding to natural disasters, we have a positive impact on the quality of life in many Pacific nations.

“Additionally, if something is built in Hawaii or Alaska, the division is usually the design and construction agency that works on the projects,” Peabody said. “In Japan and Korea, the Pacific Ocean Division is responsible by Department of Defense directive to build all facilities for each of the U.S. military services.”

## Early Role

The Corps’ role in the Pacific began in 1904 when Army LT John Slattery traveled from Pacific Division headquarters, then located in San Francisco, to Oahu to establish the Honolulu District.

Soon after, the Corps began building lighthouses and coastal artillery emplacements and dredged Honolulu Harbor, paving the way for large commercial ships to enter the island port with goods from far away.

To protect the island from attack, the government purchased Diamond Head crater in 1904 and began fortifying it in 1908 for the defense of Oahu.

Engineers built five batteries between 1908 and 1943, as well as a fire-control station, gun emplacements and a tunnel through the crater’s north side. From the crater, Army scouts had a panoramic view of south Oahu.

When Slattery established a permanent Honolulu District in 1905, he acquired 74 acres of what was a



mostly swampy and usually flooded area of duck ponds.

Today that land is some of the world’s choicest real estate on Waikiki Beach, as well as being home to the Armed Forces Recreation Center’s Hale Koa Hotel, which was completed by the Honolulu District in 1975.

In the 1920s and ‘30s, Corps engineers worked on beach-erosion projects and built military installations. In 1941, in just 90 days, 25,000 Corps employees completed a chain of island airfields along routes from California through Hawaii, Australia and the Philippines.

The day after the 1941 Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the division

▲ Corps of Engineers contract workers clean up ordnance debris from the former Belmores Air Force Base on Oahu.





reported 63 construction projects. And after America entered World War II, the Corps completed 17 additional airfields in Hawaii and nearly 500 aircraft bunkers.

After the war, the district was responsible for construction of the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific atop an extinct volcanic crater overlooking Honolulu, and the largest military hospital in the Pacific, Tripler Army Medical Center.

The Corps is still involved in a wide range of projects in Hawaii and the region, from flood control, harbor development, shoreline protection, military construction and barracks renewal to environmental cleanup.

Honolulu District completed a now-closed chemical weapons disposal plant on Johnston Atoll, a \$20 million telescope facility for the Air Force atop Haleakala (Maui's 10,000-foot dormant volcano) and opened the second major port on the island of Oahu, Barber's Point Harbor.

At the same time the Corps provides land for recreation, it secures and protects valuable training land for the Army and is a major player in quality-of-life improvements for Soldiers and families.

The Pacific Ocean Division's four districts have also been major players in ecosystem protection projects, including cleanup following the Exxon-

▲ The Corps of Engineers helped clear Oahu's Lake Wilson of a menacing weed called *Salvinia molesta*, which threatened to destroy the lake's fish population.

Valdez oil spill in Alaska in 1989.

The Corps continues to undertake a variety of missions and construction projects in one of the largest areas of responsibility on earth, an area of operations spanning multiple time zones, the equator and the international dateline.

"We are 'America's Engineers in the Pacific,' and we look forward to continuing to serve the nation as we begin our second century of service," Anderson said. 📌



# Pot Hunting in Hawaii



Story and Photos by Steve Harding

**T**HE OH-58 helicopter circled some 800 feet above a sparsely populated hillside on the Big Island of Hawaii, like a hawk waiting to pounce on a mouse. But it wasn't dinner the mechanical bird was hunting, it was marijuana.

The Kiowa, one of two assigned to the Hawaii Army National Guard's Reconnaissance and Interdiction Detachment, or RAID, was supporting a Hawaii County Police Department marijuana-eradication mission. An officer from the agency's Kona Vice Squad leaned out the left side of the cockpit, trying to get a better look at the patch of brilliant green vegetation that had caught his eye.

Moments later, certain of what he'd seen, the airborne lawman vectored a truckload of fellow officers to the patch. After pulling up the plants and searching the area for clues to the owner's identity, the officers set off for the next site spotted by their "eye in the sky."

## ≡ Aid to Law Enforcement

Unlike federal military personnel, National Guard members are Constitutionally permitted to assist local, state and federal law-enforcement agencies with their







A Hawaii County police officer (*left*) and an agent of the Drug Enforcement Administration (*right*) confer with the pilot of a Hawaii Army National Guard OH-58 Kiowa before a joint marijuana-eradication mission on the Big Island of Hawaii.





counterdrug activities, said LTC Arthur J. Logan, the Hawaii Guard's counterdrug coordinator at the time of **Soldiers'** visit.

"We're permitted to provide assistance with both personnel and equipment, and our RAID is one of the ways we provide that support," he said. "Honolulu is the only city in the state with its own police helicopter, so being able to call upon the RAID OH-58s is a huge benefit for other local law-enforcement agencies."

The Hawaii Guard was a pioneer in using its resources to assist law enforcement in the counterdrug mission, Logan said.

"While the National Guard Bureau's counterdrug program officially began in 1989, its genesis was in 1977, when both Hawaii and California first provided Guard helicopters to assist in marijuana eradication," he said.

Since that time, the Hawaii Guard's counterdrug effort has grown to encompass other types of aid.

"We support some 28 local, state and federal law-enforcement agencies with Army and Air Guard intelligence

analysts and operational case-support personnel," Logan said. "In addition, I also have four drug-demand reduction teams that each visit about 30 schools during each school year. Since Hawaii recently went to a year-round school schedule, the teams stay very busy."

### ≡ A Year-Round Effort

While the Guard assists law enforcement in many ways, the RAID helicopters are perhaps the most visible. Since marijuana grows year-round in Hawaii's ideal climate, marijuana eradication is a year-round effort.

"We are extremely busy in the state," Logan said. "At any given time we're supporting counterdrug operations on one or two of the islands, working with local and state police and representatives of the DEA's marijuana-eradication program."

The RAID aircraft fly a combined average of 740 hours a year, most in support of marijuana eradication. Each Kiowa usually flies about four missions a month, with each mission consisting of several flights in the same general area over a number of

days, Logan said.

While the OH-58s are certainly not the newest aircraft in the Army — both were first acquired during the Vietnam War — they are ideally suited to their counterdrug role, said one of the RAID pilots, a senior warrant officer with more than 7,500 hours of career flight time (whose name we've withheld for security reasons).

"They're light, nimble and don't have the 'military' look of a Huey or Black Hawk," he said. "We've equipped them with powerful searchlights, and with landing skids that are taller than those on a regular OH-58. That lets us fit them with a forward-looking infrared pod beneath the forward fuselage."

The FLIR pod allows the pilot and law-enforcement officer to see in the dark, permitting them a close-up, detailed view of action on the ground without revealing the helicopter's presence, he said.

"Being able to make use of the FLIR is certainly a huge benefit to all of us in law enforcement," said Randy Wagner, the Drug Enforcement



◀ (Left) With the police spotter on-board, the Kiowa lifts off from a forward operating location to begin another sweep.

▼ (Below) Having spotted marijuana growing near the white tent-like structure (at center), the airborne officer vectors the eradication team — in the white truck on the road — in to remove the plants.

than-even chance to locate and then eradicate the pot,” he said.

## ≡ A Vital Mission

Despite the challenges inherent in the counterdrug mission, it’s one that ultimately benefits both the Guard members and the people of Hawaii, Logan said.

“Army and Air Guard members learn new skills through their involvement in the counterdrug program, skills that enhance their military knowledge and abilities,” he said. “So they’re better trained when it comes time to perform in their traditional Guard roles.”

And the dedication the Guard members bring to the mission is both recognized and appreciated, Wagner said.

“The Guard members are always very professional and always ready to assist us in any way they can, on the ground or in the air,” he said. “And we in law enforcement especially appreciate the fact that the Hawaii Guard has not wavered in its support for counterdrug operations,

even though many of the Guard members have been deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan.”

It’s not hard to understand why the Guard members take the counterdrug mission so seriously, Logan said.

“This is a job that all of us can support and believe in, because the whole purpose is to keep illegal drugs off our state’s streets and out of the hands of children,” he said. “That’s a vital mission in anybody’s book.” 🚫



Administration’s domestic cannabis eradication and suppression program coordinator for Hawaii. “But the biggest benefit is just the existence of the RAID aircraft. We have only two DEA helicopters in the state, so being able to call upon the RAID’s two OH-58s doubles our aerial capability.”

The presence of the RAID Kiowas is also vital to the local police, said Detective Derrik Diego of the Hawaii County Police Department.

“Our county has some of the most rugged terrain in the islands, and if we couldn’t do reconnaissance from the air our job would be much harder,” he said. “Being able to call on the RAID aircraft is absolutely essential for us.”

## ≡ Cat and Mouse

The aerial search for marijuana

in Hawaii is a cat and mouse game, Logan said.

“The growers are getting very cagey. For example, they’ll plant the pot beneath wires that they think will prevent helicopters from flying overhead, or on hillsides that are prone to fog or clouds, because they think we can’t see the plants,” he said. “And they’re growing the pot in smaller patches, rather than in the vast fields that were common in the 1980s.”

Moreover, it’s common for pot plants to be found nestled among the rows of macadamia trees and coffee plants that dot the Big Island, Wagner said.

“But having the ability to do aerial reconnaissance allows us to defeat most of the countermeasures the growers take, and gives us a better-



# Earning Air-Assault Wings



Story by 1LT Bridget Deuter and  
Photos by SGT Ryan Matson



▲ A student rappels off the 34-foot rappel tower at Fort Campbell's Sabalauski Air Assault School.

Soldiers assigned to the 101st Airborne Division, the Army's largest air-assault unit, train at the Sabalauski Air Assault School at Fort Campbell, Ky. Students have described the training as "the toughest 10 days in the Army."

Training starts on the air-assault obstacle course, where nine obstacles test Soldiers' strength and spirit. Those with a fear of heights must master the "confidence climb," a 35-foot log-and-plank ladder with increasing distances between each rung. The "tough one" and "weaver" obstacles push the upper body and instill locking techniques, by which Soldiers use their hands and feet to slow down or stop on a rope while rappelling or fast-roping from a tower or helicopter.

Still fatigued from their assault on the obstacles, Soldiers trade their muddy boots for athletic shoes and set out on a two-mile, timed run. Air-assault instructors keep a close watch on Soldiers, weeding out those who could injure themselves or others during subsequent training events.

Soldiers who master the obstacle course and the run are given instructions for the first inspection of their gear — the

SGT Ryan Matson and 1LT Bridget Deuter are with the 101st Combat Aviation Brigade.



▲ Students maneuver through the "low crawl" obstacle.





Learning to fast rope from a hovering helicopter is also on the course syllabus.



▲ An instructor demonstrates an obstacle as students watch before they begin the course on “Zero Day.”



▲ A student negotiates the “incline wall” obstacle.





▲ Students wait in line for their turn to conquer the “tough one,” a mandatory obstacle and one of the most difficult the students will face.

equipment and clothing they’re expected to bring with them and maintain during the course.

“The ‘Day One’ inspection instills attention to detail in young Soldiers who may not learn it at their units,” said SSG Joseph Serrano, lead inspector.

Soldiers who have trouble focusing on small details can endanger themselves when they rappel from a tower or out of a helicopter 100 feet in the air — if the Soldier’s rappel rope is not properly wrapped around the hook that attaches to his “Swiss seat” harness, the rope won’t create friction and he could free fall to his death. And improperly secured slingloads — which may weight several tons — could fall to the ground.

The course contains three phases — combat assault, slingload operations and rappelling. The initial phase introduces Soldiers to the various helicopters used by the 101st Abn. Div., covering the missions, perfor-

mance, flight times, crew sizes and load capacities of each aircraft type. Soldiers are given two written tests on the material covered in class.

“The written tests can be the most challenging part of the course, because they test study skills,” said instructor SSG William Smith.

Soldiers learn a variety of skills relevant to helicopter/ground operations, from preparing a landing zone and hand and arm signals, to inspecting slingloaded equipment to ensure that a load is properly prepared for air transport.

In slingload inspections, Soldiers must ensure loads have been rigged with the correct link counts on chains and the proper tie-downs. Even reflectors on vehicles must be properly taped.

The course concludes with Soldiers rappelling and fast-roping from a 34-foot tower, and then performing rappels from a Black Hawk helicopter 70 to 90 feet in the air.

Soldiers learn to rappel by first walking down a wall on a small tower. They also learn how to properly tie a Swiss-seat harness — a feat that must be performed to standard within 90 seconds — and where to position their hands to brake themselves. Locking techniques are then tested by a fast-rope down a 35-foot tower.

Rappelling and fast-roping are often the Soldiers’ favorite parts of the course.

“Rappelling from a helicopter and jumping out of a plane are two of the coolest things I can think of,” said PFC Kayla D. Bryan, a recent air-assault course graduate with Headquarters and HQs. Company, 1st Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment.

Soldiers’ final gut-check is a 12-mile foot march in full battle dress uniforms with full rucksacks and weapons. Soldiers must complete the march in under three hours before they can attend the graduation ceremony later that morning and have their





▲ An instructor takes students through light physical training before they take on the obstacle course.

“wings” pinned on in front of family and friends.

While Soldiers take pride in earning the air-assault badge, instructors are also proud to work at the school.

“I had been in a line unit for six years, deployed to Iraq and done pretty much all of the things I wanted,” said SGT Blain Lippe. “Knowing this is an air-assault division, it’s a pretty prestigious job to be an instructor, and I look at it as a privilege to be here, instilling useful knowledge in Soldiers.”

All Soldiers newly assigned to Fort Campbell are encouraged to complete the course, not just to learn the history and capabilities of the 101st Abn. Div., but also to challenge themselves mentally and physically.

“If I’m in an air-assault unit, I need to be air-assault qualified,” said SPC Regina Crump of the 101st Combat Avn. Bde.

“The obstacles were a definite challenge to me, and that’s what I loved about going through the course — the confidence I gained from doing well and completing the course. It was exciting to learn about the different capabilities of each helicopter in the division and how they’re used,” added Crump. “I think every Soldier, no matter where they are, should earn air-assault wings.” 🚩

➤ A student regains his balance as he negotiates an obstacle on “Zero Day.”





## At Home Scams





**“E**ARN thousands of dollars each month at home.”

This alluring ad on street signs, on television, on junk mail or in magazines seems to offer easy, stay-at-home income. It's an attractive idea: Earn “big bucks” while never leaving the house.


Unfortunately, the history of stay-at-home work schemes is so fraught with scams and rip-offs that any such offer should be thoroughly investigated before you commit yourself.

Here are some thoughts to consider:

 Ads omit the fact that you may have to work many hours without pay, or they do not disclose all of the costs you will have to pay.

 Work-at-home schemes usually require you to spend your own money to place newspaper ads and make photocopies, and buy envelopes, paper, stamps, and other supplies or equipment to perform the job.

Steven Chucala is chief of client services in the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate at Fort Belvoir, Va.

 Companies may require you to pay for instructions or “tutorial” software.

Let's take a look at three of the most common types of schemes to better understand the challenges would-be at-home workers might encounter.

### Medical Billing

Ads for prepackaged businesses, known as billing centers, normally include a sales pitch that says today's health-care industry can't adequately process claims, or that many doctors wish to “outsource” their billing services. According to the ads, doctors and other health-care providers are clamoring for help in processing claims, thus creating a lucrative market for full- and part-time at-home workers.

According to the Federal Trade Commission, the reality is different — competition in the medical-billing market is fierce and concentrated in a number of large firms. That makes it highly unlikely that small, at-home efforts will succeed. More importantly, there is very little chance that you'll recover the \$2,000 to \$8,000 the ad's promoter will charge you for “required” forms, software, training programs and technical support.







## Envelope Stuffing

In return for a small “fee,” promoters promise to tell you how to earn money at home stuffing envelopes. In reality, their advice usually is nothing more than the suggestion that you place the same “envelope-stuffing” ad in newspapers or magazines, or to send the ad to friends and relatives in order to get clients.

The only way you will earn money is if someone responds to your work-at-home ad and hires you. And until that happens, you pay out the costs of

the ads with no guarantee you’ll ever get it back.

## Assembly or Craft Work

These programs often require you to invest hundreds of dollars in equipment or supplies. Or they require you to spend many hours producing goods for a company that has promised to buy them. For example, you may have to buy a sewing machine or a sign-making device from the company, or materials to make items like aprons, baby shoes or plastic signs.

However, you then run the very real risk that the company won’t buy the finished goods, claiming that the items don’t meet unspecified “quality standards.” You then have to bear the loss of the cost of equipment and the time spent doing the work, unless you can find your own customers to purchase the items you produced.

## Is it Legit?

While there are many work-at-home scams out there, there are also legitimate companies who really do need your help. Sponsors of legitimate offers should be willing to provide a written reply to the following questions:

- What tasks will I have to perform?  
(Ask for a list of every step of the job.)

- Will I be paid a salary, or will my pay be based on commission?
- Who will pay me?
- When will I get my first paycheck?
- What is the total cost of the work-at-home program, including supplies, equipment and membership fees?
- What will I get in return for my money?

The answers to these questions will help you determine whether a work-at-home program is appropriate for your individual circumstances, and whether it is legitimate. You should also check out each firm with such consumer-protection agencies as your state’s attorney general and the Better Business Bureau. Bear in mind, though, that the absence of any complaints does not mean the company is legitimate, since many change their names or settle claims to avoid public knowledge of their scams.

## Where to Complain

If you believe the program you subscribed to is not legitimate, contact the company and ask for a refund and advise them you will file complaints with government officials if they do not comply. If the company refuses to refund your money and you decide to file a complaint, call the Federal Trade Commission at (877) 382-4357 or visit [www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov). If the solicitation came through the U.S. Postal Service, also call your local postmaster — the Postal Service investigates fraudulent mail practices. 📧



# Know the Law



## \$1000 FOR REFERRALS

SOLDIERS can now earn \$1,000 for referring their acquaintances to Army recruiters, when those referrals result in enlistments.

Eligible members of both the active and reserve components may receive the bonus when referrals are made via the Sergeant Major of the Army Recruiting Team, or SMART, referral process. Referrals must be made via the Web site, <https://www.usarec.army.mil/smart>, or by phone to (800) 223-3736 before applicants see an Army recruiter.

Referrals must be for someone outside the Soldier's immediate family. The bonus will be paid in a lump sum

For more information, visit <https://www.usarec.army.mil/smart>



once the qualified applicant completes Basic and Advanced Individual Training.

Soldiers who work in recruiting or retention are ineligible, and will remain so for three months following a reassignment outside their recruiting and retention duties. This includes Soldiers who have participated in the Hometown Recruiter Assistance Program, Special Recruiter Program and additional duty special work in recruiting or retention.

— Army News Service

## ARMY BEGINS BUSINESS TRANSFORMATION

The Army is executing the business-transformation principles of Lean Six Sigma throughout the force to free up resources for the operational Army and to more quickly provide equipment to Soldiers. Nearly 1,400 leaders across the Army have been trained to teach others how to implement the business practice, said MG Ross Thompson, director for Army Programs, Analysis and Evaluation.

During fiscal 2005, the Army Materiel Command saw \$110 million in savings and cost avoidance as a result of implement-

ing LSS practices. For example, by removing waste and controlling output, Letterkenny Army Depot, Pa., reduced costs by \$11.9 million in Patriot air defense missile system recapitalization. Pine Bluff Arsenal, Ark., reduced recycle time for repairing M-40 protective masks by 90 percent, and Red River Army Depot, Texas, increased the output of vehicle inspection and repair by 220 percent.

Deputy Undersecretary of the Army for Business Transformation Mike Kirby said that to be successful the LSS process requires both a top-down and bottom-up approach to implement changes, and this means that management and technicians need to collaborate to redefine the process needed to improve speed, quality and cost across the Army. — ARNEWS

For more, search for "business transformation" on [www.army.mil](http://www.army.mil)



GEN Benjamin Griffin, commander of U.S. Army Materiel Command, points out to Secretary of the Army Francis Harvey a vehicle track that will soon have new rubber applied to it at Red River Army Depot, which increased vehicle inspection and repair by 220 percent using LSS.

## April Happenings

Daylight Savings Time begins	— April 2
Income tax deadline (because the 15th falls on a Saturday)	— April 17
Earth Day	— April 22
Army Reserve Birthday	— April 23
Holocaust Remembrance Day	— April 25
Administrative Professionals Day	— April 26
Month of the Military Child	



## MONEY BACK FOR PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

SOLDIERS who privately purchased protective equipment between Sept. 11, 2001, and July 31, 2004, have until Oct. 3 to file claims for reimbursement.

A provision of the 2005 Defense Authorization Act allows for the reimbursement if service members weren't issued equivalent equipment before deploying to operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

The Army is reimbursing Soldiers up to \$1,100 for such items as protective body armor, combat helmets, ballistic eye protection, hydration systems, summer-weight gloves, and knee and elbow pads.

A Soldier may be reimbursed for the purchase of a complete outer tactical vest, or for the separately purchased components of an OTV, including Small Arms Protective Insert plates, according to the U.S. Army Claims Service.

Soldiers also can be paid if these items were purchased for them by someone else, such as members of their families.

Current active-duty or reserve-component Soldiers who seek reimbursement should complete and file a DD Form 2902 with the first field-grade commander in their current chain of command.

Soldiers must provide proof of deployment — such

as deployment orders or a DD Form 214 noting deployment — and copies of all receipts or other proof of purchase for the items claimed, and turn in

all reimbursable items to their units at the time the claim is filed.

Soldiers who are missing some or all of the items should submit a written statement explaining why.

Claimants can download instructions and DD Form 2902 at [www.jagcnet.army.mil](http://www.jagcnet.army.mil)

under "Client Services and Links" or call (301) 677-7009, ext. 431, for additional information.

Former Soldiers and survivors of deceased Soldiers should mail the form to the address provided in block 12 of the form.

— ARNEWS



## ARMY ASTRONAUT MANS SPACE STATION



OF all the destinations Soldiers may find on permanent change of station orders, add "outer space." Army astronaut COL Jeffrey Williams has soared to the International Space Station to serve as Expedition 13 flight engineer and NASA science officer.

Williams is the first active-duty Army astronaut ever to live aboard the ISS. Retired COL William S. McArthur previously crewed the space station. Williams prepared for the mission at the Russian Space Agency's training base east of Moscow, nicknamed "Star City."

For information about the space station and access to the photo gallery, visit [www.nasa.gov/station](http://www.nasa.gov/station). — ARNEWS

## FOR RETIREMENT

THE Thrift Savings Plan is a retirement savings and investment plan similar to 401(k) plans offered by civilian employers. Previously offered only to federal civilian employees, the benefit was extended to service members in 2003.

Retirement income from TSP depends on how much participants contribute during working years, and on the earnings of those contributions. Soldiers may contribute any percentage of their basic, bonus, incentive or special-duty pay, up to the limits established by the Internal Revenue Code. TSP contributions are either tax-deferred or tax-exempt, which means that the money contributed is taken out of pay before federal taxes are withheld.

For participants who lack time or experience to manage their TSP accounts, TSP recently introduced the Lifecycle, or L, funds. L funds are invested according to a professionally determined mix of stocks, bonds and securities. The mix is based on the dates participants plan to begin withdrawing from their accounts. If that date is a long time away, the L Fund will gear more toward stocks. As the date gets nearer, the allocation will gear toward fixed-income investments.

For more information, go to [www.tsp.gov](http://www.tsp.gov).







# Four-Footed “Heroes”



Story and Photos  
by Don Wagner

While military working dogs can be a Soldier's best friend, they can be a foe's worst enemy. When their aggression level is high and they're looking for something to bite, that's when they become "war dogs," and they can be as intimidating and formidable as any armed Soldier.

Some Army "heroes" serving with Soldiers in the war on terrorism seldom get mentioned in the media, although they have died in combat, too, while serving America. They are military working dogs, and during the Vietnam War 281 of these four-footed heroes died in action.

One such dog recently returned home to Fort Belvoir, Va., from a tour of duty in Iraq, where she spent six months detecting explosives. Vendi, a 4-year-old German shepherd, is one of many unsung heroes, military working dogs who work alongside U.S. service members.

Of about 500 MWDs currently detailed to the Army, many are working with Soldiers in Iraq, said SFC Donald Nelson, Fort Belvoir's K-9 kennel master. Deployed dogs can spend up to a year in the war zone and will eventually return to their home posts to resume duties as patrol dogs, specializing in narcotics or explosives detection.

Nelson and his team of 10 dogs and their handlers make up the Fort Belvoir Police Canine Unit, and Nelson anticipates getting four more dogs.

"These dogs are our partners, not our pets," Nelson said. And while they can be their handler's best friend, they can be a foe's worst enemy. When

their aggression level is high and they're looking for something to bite, that's when they become "war dogs," and they can be as intimidating and formidable as any armed Soldier. The average German shepherd's bite can exert up to 1,200 pounds of pressure per square inch, Nelson said.

Seven-year-old Arrow, a German shepherd and Belgian malinois mix, has an impressive record, Nelson said. Arrow assisted the U.S. Secret Service in about 50 missions, including providing security at the 2004 Democratic and Republican national conventions. Arrow and Nelson, his handler at the time, also helped provide security for President George W. Bush and John Kerry on the 2004 campaign trail.

Fort Belvoir's team of German shepherds and Belgian malinois are dual-certified as either patrol-narcotics or patrol-explosives dogs, and are trained to detect a variety of explosives or narcotics. When commanded to search, the dogs are extremely focused and obsessively search for contraband, obeying the handler's precise one-word commands, the commands they were taught in training.

The dog teams are held to high standards and are subject to monthly proficiency tests and quarterly validations, Nelson said.

German shepherds and Belgian

▶ Arrow, of the Fort Belvoir Police Canine Unit, assisted the U.S. Secret Service in about 50 missions, including providing security at the most recent Democratic and Republican national conventions.



▼ Arrow and SGT Brian Legger of the Fort Belvoir Police Canine Unit take a break from one of many yearly local public demonstrations.



malinois are specifically chosen for the type of work they do because of their endurance, speed, strength, courage, intelligence and adaptability to almost any climate, Nelson said. Though their hearing is better than that of humans, their keenest sense is of smell.

"The dogs smell the way we humans see. They can smell an infinite number of different scents in an area, just as we see many different images at once, in one place," Nelson said.

Two-year-old Tarak, the newest German shepherd at the Belvoir kennel, arrived in March from Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, where all MWDs are trained. Tarak graduated from a 120-day training course that teaches MWDs a variety of aggression techniques, including methods of attack. The first phase of training involves searching buildings and scouting for "bad guys." The second phase is detection training.

The primary function of a patrol dog team is to utilize the dog's keen senses of hearing and smell to conduct walking patrols around buildings and open areas, "for people who try to elude police," said Nelson.

Patrol dogs are trained to remain alert but calm with unfamiliar people, and to discriminate between threatening and nonthreatening people. The dogs are trained to attack as well as instantly stop the attack when given the command to do so.

Nelson said the Army has the strictest policy concerning the training of MWDs. They undergo at least 16 hours' training monthly, in both detection and patrolling. In narcotics detection the dogs must maintain 90-percent proficiency, and in explosives detection must achieve at least a 95-percent proficiency, Nelson said.

The staff at the Lackland Training Detachment, 701st Military Police Battalion, trains all MWDs in explosives or narcotics detection. The program also teaches the dog basic obedience, as well as more advanced skills, such as how to attack and how to sniff out specific substances.

Once the dogs receive their initial training, they and their trainers work



"The dogs smell the way we humans see. They can smell an infinite number of different scents in an area, just as we see many different images at once, in one place."

as a team. The dog has skills to learn, and the handler has to learn to recognize what the dog is trying to communicate, Nelson said.

Each handler is assigned to one dog and is charged with building a strong rapport with that dog. This results in an effective and trusting team. Handlers are responsible for the feeding, grooming, training, and exercising of their assigned partners.

Army regulations dictate that handlers and their MWDs have 45 to 90 days to become certified in narcotics or explosives detection once the team is given its assignment.



While training their dogs, handlers must be patient or the dog will become confused and hard to handle, Nelson said. When a dog performs a desired task, he's rewarded with verbal or physical praise and positive reinforcement. Likewise, with incorrect responses, praise and reward are withheld. Positive training is the key to training dogs to obey, Nelson said.

The Soldiers of Fort Belvoir's K-9 unit are military policemen. After having earned the rank of specialist, prospective MWD handlers attend Lackland AFB for the 11-week MWD Handler Course. Five weeks involve learning MWD patrol, and the next six weeks' studies focus on MWD detection. Soldiers learn to train, handle and care for the MWDs. Future kennel masters are required to attend an additional five-week Supervisor's Training Course.

Future male and female MWDs between 12 and 36-months old undergo extensive temperament and

physical evaluations and are tested for gun shyness, aggressiveness and searching behavior. Only temperamentally and physically sound dogs are selected for the program. Patrol dogs and narcotics-detection dogs are evaluated annually by a Department of Army-certifying authority, Nelson said.

Once certified, MWDs can serve for up to 13 years. However, the average length of service is about 10 years.

Dogs nearing the end of their military careers are considered for adoption. But not all MWDs are good candidates for adoption, Nelson said. The dogs undergo a series of tests to determine whether or not they can be adopted.

When not on duty, Belvoir MWD teams are natural Army public relations specialists and recruiters. On a yearly average, they are present at more than 50 military and civic events at local schools and churches, demonstrating and sometimes showing off their skills, Neslon said. 🇺🇸



Dogs nearing the end of their military careers are considered for adoption. But not all MWDs are good candidates for adoption.



▼ Arrow, SGT Brian Legger and SGT Daniel Evans of the Fort Belvoir Police Canine Unit rehearse attack techniques.



# Sexual Assault Prevention

Story by Bill Yamanaka

**T**HE Department of Army is observing National Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April, with the DOD theme, “Sexual Assault Prevention Begins with You.”

Army leadership has repeatedly stated that sexual assault has no place in the Army, is contrary to Army values, degrades mission readiness and is a crime. During Sexual Assault Awareness Month, the Army will reinforce these points and the importance of its Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Program.

Implemented nearly 18 months ago, the Army’s SAPR Program has made tremendous progress, and continues to move forward to improve specific areas of the program and its related initiatives. Underreporting of sexual assault incidents and victims’ hesitation to seek help remain top concerns.


One of the Army’s goals is to

foster a command climate that encourages victims to report without fear or shame and seek help, allowing commanders to take appropriate action against offenders.

There is evidence that continued command emphasis on sexual assault prevention, combined with policy and training initiatives by both the Army and DOD, have helped Soldiers recognize that sexual assault as a crime that needs to be reported and have created more

of a willingness by some victims to report incidents.

Leaders at all levels are encouraged to use National Sexual Assault Awareness Month as an opportunity to talk openly to their Soldiers about this issue. Commanders can refer to the recently revised Army Command Policy (AR 600-20), which includes a new Chapter 8, “Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program,” that details the Army’s policy on sexual assault prevention and response. The Army regulation also provides guidance to Commanders on creating a climate that eliminates sexual assault and encourages the reporting of incidents.

The Army’s Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program Web site, [www.sexualassault.army.mil](http://www.sexualassault.army.mil), is another valuable resource. It contains a rich variety of educational material, including individual sexual assault prevention and response actions, lesson plans and links to other resources for use by leaders and Soldiers. 

“Soldiers must continue to live by the Army Values and treat each other with dignity and respect. By doing so, we will make great strides toward eliminating sexual assault in our Army,”  
— SMA Kenneth Preston

Bill Yamanaka is the chief of the Operational Planning Division’s Personnel Team in the Office of the Chief of Public Affairs.



*An Army of One, Caring for All*



# WARRIOR ETHOS




**I will always place the  
mission first**

The Warrior Ethos is the common thread that has tied us all together throughout 230 years of service to our nation. Since 1775, American Soldiers have answered the call to duty. From Valley Forge to the battlefields of Gettysburg; from the Argonne Forest to the shores of Normandy; from the rice paddies of Korea and Vietnam to the mountains of Afghanistan and the streets of Baghdad; our military history is rich with the willingness of generation after generation to live by the Warrior Ethos.

Peter J. Schoomaker  
General, United States Army  
Chief of Staff





WHAT DO YOU SEE?  
CHILDREN?  
A PLAYGROUND?  
A PARK?

I SEE  
MY COMMUNITY  
MY COUNTRY  
MY FUTURE  
AND IT'S ALL WORTH FIGHTING FOR.

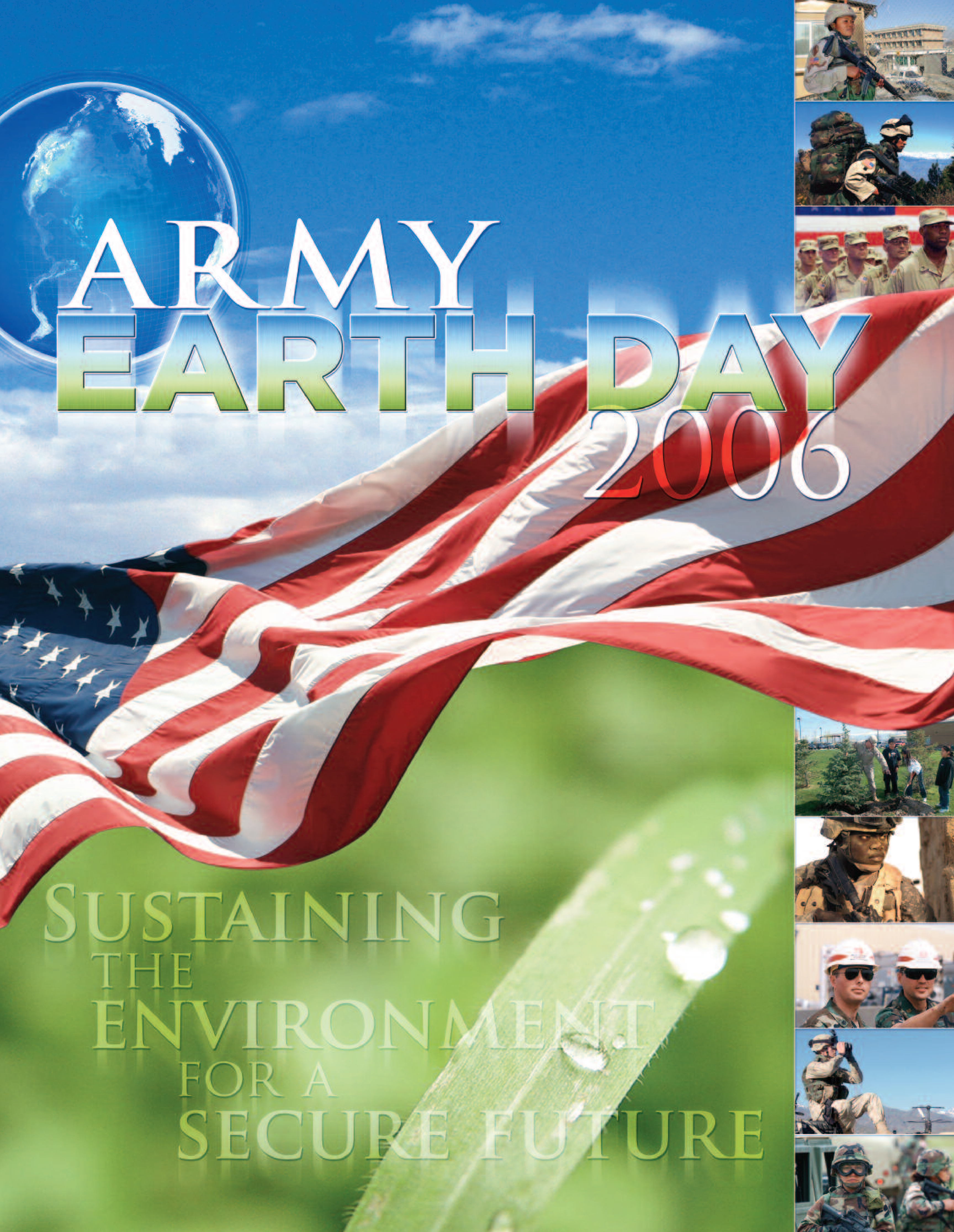
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# ARMY EARTH DAY 2006

SUSTAINING  
THE  
ENVIRONMENT  
FOR A  
SECURE FUTURE

